Implementation of TPDS

3305. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount spent by Central Government under the subsidy head for Public Distribution System (PDS) prior to the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(b) whether there is any reduction of subsidy amount due to the implementation of TPDS; and

(c) if not, the advantage of the present TPDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The amount of food subsidy released by Central Government in 1995-96 and 1996-97, prior to introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from June, 1997 is as under:

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)
1995-96	4960
1996-97	5166

(b) No, Sir. Food subsidy depends on economic cost, Central Issue Price and offtake of foodgrains. The subsidy has been increasing on account of increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year while the Central Issue Prices (CTIs) of foodgrains have not been revised since 01.07.2002.

(c) With a view to target poor sections of the population for distribution of foodgrains (rice, wheat & coarsegrains) and sugar, Targeted Public Distribution System was launched in June, 1997. The allocation of foodgrains to the eligible beneficiaries under TPDS is helping in containing the prices of foodgrains in open market.

Hike in sugar prices

3306. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tumbling domestic sugar prices in the country have heightened speculation that importers are backing out of some deals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the exact reasons for such high sugar prices in the country compared to the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. No such report has been received.